The
Niagara Advance
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Thursday, March 31, 2011

NOTL man battling cancer

Fundraisers at Oban helping to pay for treatment 8

Shaw's 50 season set to begin

Previews open next week 2

Atom girls are champions

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Doors are open

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Fundraising committee chair John Wiens, regional chair Gary Burroughs, MPP Kim Craitor and Lord Mayor Dave Eke couldn't hide their pride and pleasure at being able to declare the new Anderson Lane Community Centre open. MP Rob Nicholson had been expected but his chair on the stage was removed once the federal election call was announced.

Two crowds totalling about 1,400 people toured the new community centre Saturday afternoon and evening, and nobody was disappointed.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Expectations were high, but the exceptionally positive and enthusiastic reaction of the huge turnout to Saturday's community centre opening far surpassed what those involved could have imagined.

There may have been just one flaw in the design of the facility, joked Councillor Terry Flynn—it wasn't big enough, at least not for the 1,400 people that had toured the Anderson Lane facility by the end of the day, creating standing-room only crowds at both events.

"It's our community centre, our place to play," said fundraising committee chairman John Wiens to the crowds of curious people who came for their first look around inside at a spectacular addition to the community.

Completed on time, within budget.

See Page 10

Shaw launches 50th season honouring past, looking to future

Previews begin next week with Candida, the first play produced for Shaw's first summer season in 1962.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Celebrations for the Shaw Festival's 50th season are aimed at achieving two goals—honouring the past and looking to the future, says artistic director Jackie Maxwell.

This season's varied playbill, fashioned to reflect those goals, represents what has made the Shaw Festival the cultural icon that it has become and what it hopes to achieve.

It is also designed to show the world why the festival should be around for another 50 years, says Maxwell.

Those who call Niagara-on-the-Lake home know well the story of the festival's modest beginnings: a local lawyer, passionate about the theatre and looking for a way to liven up the summer months, decides 1962 Niagara-on-the-Lake is the time and place to play homage to George Bernard Shaw, leading to the staging of two Shaw plays over eight weekends in the Court House.

In the intervening decades, one small stage grew to four theatres; two productions expanded to 10 to 12 plays by Shaw and his contemporaries each season; a broadened mandate embraces new playwrights; an assembly of a core of talented and dedicated actors includes accomplished singers; and an international reputation attracts more than 250,000 audience members each year, with almost $15 million in ticket sales.

Box office success consistently indicates the Shaw is producing great theatre that audiences find relevant and want to see, driving tourism in NOTL and having a $106.6 million economic impact across the province.

Previews for the 50th season begin April 7 with Candida. The classic love triangle will be staged at the Royal George, and represents the first time a Bernard Shaw play has been presented at the three main theatres in one season, says Maxwell, who loves the idea of revisiting the first play of that first season, all these years later—it still offers relevant commentary on marriage.

It also represents a way of looking forward by "tweaking" one of Shaw's plays "just a little differently," she says.

Maxwell has been directing rehearsals herself, until Polish-born Tadeusz Bradecki returns to Niagara-on-the-Lake to take over.

He offered to step in after the sudden and untimely passing of Gina Wilkinson, who was to have directed Candida.

See Page 3

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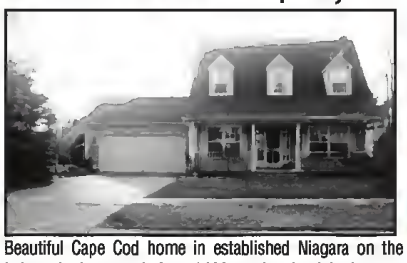

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Buzz is about My Fair Lady, 'cork–popper' of the season

From Page 2

The 50th season officially opens May 25 with Heartbreak House, directed by Christopher Newton for the second time at the Shaw—the first time was in 1985.

And of course the real buzz this season is around My Fair Lady, which begins in previews at the Festival Theatre April 13, and opens May 28.

Calling it a blend of glorious music and Shaw's timeless tale—based on Pygmalion, it may as well have been written by Shaw, Maxwell says—and directed by Maggie Smith, "a wonderful director, especially of musicals," My Fair Lady is the "cork-popper" that sets the tone for the 50th season.

"The music is fantastic—very iconic—and spectacular in those really well-known pieces, but the play will have a new visual sense, and a nice edge to it," says Maxwell.

"It will be our My Fair Lady," she promises.

Tickets for the audience favourite are already selling well beyond expectations, and some early performances are sold out.

Also marking the 50th season: Lennox Robinson's Drama at Inish – A Comedy, is the first by an Irish playwright, other than Shaw, that Maxwell, Irish herself, will direct. She is excited about it, as well as the romantic musical about Maria Severa, the mother of fado, in its world premier after four years in development.

With book, music and lyrics by Shaw actor Jay Turvey and musical director Paul Sportelli, Maxwell says "it will take us to a world we've never visited," with passionate music that will touch our hearts.

Other pieces that "sit well with our mandate," says Maxwell: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Admirable Crichton, and a new version of Shaw's On the Rocks by Michael Healey, "the ultimate Shavian," combine with tough, gritty Topdog/Underdog, and the Austrian When the Rain Stops Falling, to present the new and unexpected.

Also celebrating the season: the return of the 2008 hit The President as the lunchtime one-act play.

The 2011 season, says Maxwell in this year's playbill, pays homage to the past, but just as importantly, looks forward to the next 50 years, "bringing you new worlds, new playwrights and new visions of Shaw himself."

Maxwell, who directs the 50th season with a renewed four-year contract after almost a decade at the Shaw, says she still loves her work, although this season more than others "is busy, crazy and exhausting."

As part of the discussions of the celebration leading up to the 50th season, she adds, "it's fun to be around as it starts to play out."

For tickets or more information go to www.shawfest.com or call 905-468-2172.

Executive Director Colleen Blake serves 50th season celebration cake to ensemble members Heather McGuiguan and James Pendarves at an open house held at the Festival theatre Sunday.

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Maxwell's renewed contract leaves no question of next four years

Artistic director says she still has lots of energy and ideas.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

With rehearsals well underway and previews about to launch the Shaw Festival's 50th season, artistic director Jackie Maxwell can look ahead knowing she will be around for the next four years.

"I am so proud of the work presented at The Shaw and feel privileged that the Shaw Festival's board of governors has given me the opportunity to further contribute to the Shaw's theatrical story by leading it into its next 50 years," said Maxwell when her contract renewal was announced.

"I still feel I have a lot of ideas to contribute," Maxwell told the Advance.

"In theatre, we're pretty good at knowing when we should stop, and I don't feel I'm there yet. This place has a really good energy, and I definitely feel I have a few more years in me."

When Maxwell settled in Niagara-on-the-Lake almost a decade ago, she wasn't sure what the future would hold, but by the time this contract ends, it will be the longest stretch for her at one theatre.

Her kids have gone through high school here and graduated, and she is ready to tackle the next stage of her life, both personally and as artistic director at the Shaw, she says.

"This is a new place for me, and I have lots of energy still. I love going in to work every day to do what I do, and literally every day is different."

The Shaw Festival is a "major player" in the world of theatre, she said, and she feels a commitment to the company to keep that moving forward.

She also feels a commitment to the community, she adds.

"I still get stopped in Valu-mart, and drawn into conversations about the theatre. It is a mutual interest for all of us. And I love being part of the Shaw as well as being part of the community. It feels good."

Named artistic director designate in 2001, Maxwell joined the Shaw Festival for the 2002 season to work alongside former artistic director Christopher Newton. She officially assumed the position of artistic director in November 2002.

During her tenure, she has sustained and strengthened Shaw's mandate, expanding it to include the voices of Canadian and female playwrights, contemporary Shavians and new visions of Shaw himself, as well as introducing and opening the Shaw's fourth performance space, the Studio Theatre.

During The Shaw's landmark 50th season, Maxwell will direct the Canadian premiere of Lennox Robinson's Drama at Inish – A Comedy, and the world premiere of the Jay Turvey/Paul Sportelli musical Maria Severa.

DAVID COOPER Shaw Festival

Artistic Director Jackie Maxwell has expanded the Shaw Festival mandate during her tenure.

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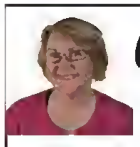
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Don't miss great community party

Event will help raise funds to furnish the youth room at the new community centre on Anderson Lane.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Now that the community centre is officially open, the Friends of NDSS are preparing to throw what could be considered a house-warming party—the first community event to be held at the new facility.

It's not just for alumni or members of the educational support group, it's for everyone, says Friends member and party organizer Joanne Hicks.

The Friends have a reputation to uphold, and they plan to exceed expectations—bank on it being a great event, she says.

"As you know, we always throw a good party,' says Hicks.

Enjoy the music of Tim Atherton and the Athertones, laugh at the comedy of Joe Pillitteri—he's always a hit—and enjoy the good company of friends and neighbours.

It's a great venue for a party, as those who attended the opening will know, and it will be decorated to the nines.

"Come to see what it looks like in full party garb," says Hicks.

"It will be an opportunity for us to showcase the new centre. We will make sure it looks great."

The bar will be manned by the NOTL Kinsmen—and they do a great job, says Hicks—they work really hard but they also know how to have fun.

There will also be some mementoes from Niagara District Secondary School for sale—trophies, pennants and banners from every decade, going back to the 50s.

You may find your name on one of about 30 trophies, or the name of a friend or family member who was an MVP or a member of a winning sports team, and they are great souvenirs to hold on to, she says.

> **"We have a reputation for throwing great parties."**
>
> *— Friends of NDSS member Joanne Hicks*

"We hope they will go to people who will really treasure them," says Hicks.

There will also be old year books for sale, going back to the earliest years.

A donation from the proceeds will be made to the youth room at the centre, which is still in need of furnishings. Without a local high school, that room will be an important meeting place for NOTL teens to reconnect, says Hicks.

Tickets are $10 for the April 9 event, which begins at 7:30 p.m., and are available from any of the Friends of NDSS or at the door.

For tickets or more information call Hicks at 905-468-7469.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

There will be NDSS trophies, banners and pennants available at the Friends of NDSS party, to be sold by silent auction, says organizer Joanne Hicks.

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Your opinion matters; please submit your survey by March 31, 2011. For more information please call us at (905) 468-4235 x390

opinion page

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our editorial

Community centre opening was a great celebration of a beautiful building

The doors are open, the commotion has died down, and our new community centre now begins to assume its rightful role in town—as MPP Kim Craitor said at the opening, as the new heart of our community.

Saturday was a day for celebration, and although we can't say we talked to every one of the 1,400 people who attended, it is safe to say from the reaction of all those around us that though residents were given reason to expect to be awed, they were overwhelmed by what they saw.

What this town accomplished for the $2 million that was its part of the funding is amazing. Of course there were other contributors—it was council's wise decision to wait for that funding—and they were all acknowledged and thanked on Saturday. All are to be commended for such a beautiful building at a price that was affordable and not on the backs of local taxpayers.

There was one piece of disappointing news, but it is quickly being corrected. In the rush to get the donor board finished on time, there were some errors and omissions. It's unfortunate for those who were left out, given the large number of people who saw the board, but it will be fixed. Other than that, if there were snags, they went unnoticed by the majority of those who attended.

The entertainment was great—homegrown, afternoon and evening, and much appreciated. The food samplings in the evening were awesome, but that's no surprise, given the great restaurants and chefs we have in town.

What was best about the celebration, however, afternoon and evening, was seeing so many members of the community there to take part, to admire their new facility and to begin to make it feel like it belongs to them. It seemed like this benevolent, wonderfully hospitable building was opening its arms to all of us in a huge, warm welcoming embrace, and we were hugging back.

We hear that when the centre opened Monday morning, there were residents waiting to enjoy the Second Cup cafe, and others prepared to sign up for fitness memberships. That, surely, indicates that the decisions to build, to incorporate a private coffee shop and to add the upstairs fitness component—which was not part of the original plan— were the right decisions, made at the right time.

The congrats have been said and the thanks repeated. All that remains is for Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to use and enjoy their new incredible community facility—and we know they will.

Community Centre update

Bill Mori gives John Wiens and Ralph Tallman of the community centre fundraising committee a cheque for $20,000. The multi-purpose room to be used by the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club is the Mori Nurseries Room. The committee raised $650,000, topping their goal by $200,000.

letters to the editor

What a building!

Wow! What a building, our great community centre, and the outstanding opening ceremonies. A great memory forever. Many thinks for all the work and months, years that went into the centre, plus all the planning of the lovely day.

There as much emotion for Harold Clement. My personal memory was many years ago. I didn't even know who he was, but as I was viking across the Commons, said hi to the gentleman outside his house.

When I retuned, he was there and proceeded to fill y bike basket with fruit. Soon found out who he was and knew him forever after as one of the kindest men I've met in my long life.

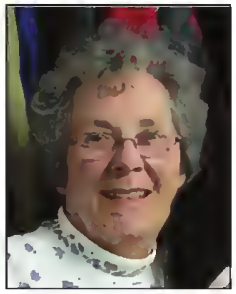
Once I knew his name, soon realized this was so typical of him and like hundreds of others, would have loved for him to see his great wish com to fruition.

He will never be forgotten.

Joan Willoughby

We're getting ready for Easter

Those who need help with Easter dinner must register by April 8.



Brenda Shah
Newark Neighbours

Hi folks, with Easter just around the corner we would like to remind anyone in need of an Easter Dinner to please come in and register.

Registration is ongoing and will run until Friday April 8. Please come in person and bring the necessary information. Pick-up for Easter dinners will be Wednesday, April 20 from 9 am. until 1 pm.

Any food donations that people may want to bring in for the Easter season will be very much appreciated.

We would like to take this time to thank the parishioners of St. Georges Homer for their generous food donation.

Also of note, with the off shore workers arriving weekly and coming to Newark Neighbours in hopes of getting things for setting up for the coming season, we are in need of the following items: men's work boots, pots & pans, blenders, pressure cookers and radios.

Our hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

We can be reached at 905-468-3519.

opinion

letter to the editor

Council treating Mazza family with same criteria as all businesses

As Lord Mayor, it is my responsibility to respond to David B. Green's Letter to the Editor (Niagara Advance, March 24) - 'Council shows petty prejudices.'

His letter states: "Our council's sustained, and personal onslaught and flagrant attempt to embarrass NOTL Councillor Martin Mazza and his family."

This is not true. Our council is treating the Mazza family using the same criteria and written business practice procedures as we do with all businesses who sign contractual agreements with our town.

When the town rezoned the Mazzas' properties from residential to commercial in 2002, the Mazza family signed a site plan agreement to fulfill certain obligations with their rezoned properties. During the past nine years, these site plan agreements have not been completed or even started.

As a sitting member of council, Martin Mazza places our council in an awkward position when requesting other businesses to fulfill their site plan obligations—appearances of a double standard on council. We are requesting the Mazza family to fulfill their signed obligations.

It must be noted that this council does not discriminate or personalize issues that come before council—we deal with the issue.

I am very proud of this council's actions and commitment in serving our town.

Dave Eke
Lord Mayor, NOTL

Volunteer discovers marking on table, dating it and establishing standard of quality

But there remains a mystery attached to a museum artifact.

Sarah Maloney
@the museum

A recent discovery has been made by Museum volunteer Pat Hunter.

Pat, who has been researching the museum's furniture collection, found a table with unique markings on it. After some digging Pat discovered a wealth of information the museum never knew about the artifact.

The table was built by Joseph Gengenbach (1715-1797), also known as "Canabas". Joseph was born in Germany and was the son of a prominent cabinet maker of the time. He travelled to Paris, France and in 1766 attained the status of Master in the jurande des menuisiers-ébénistes (JME), a guild of the finest cabinet makers.

JME is another mark Pat found on the table while doing her research. This mark was placed on all approved pieces by the guild beginning in 1743. This tells us that Joseph's table passed the guild's strict guidelines for quality work.

JME was established in the Middle Ages and continued with little change until 1791 when it was dissolved due to the French Revolution. It required their furniture makers to have at least six years of training that led to a high degree of technical specialization and a higher standard of work. In order to become a Master, Joseph had to prove his competence by making a masterpiece approved by the guild judges.

After approval, Joseph would have been allowed to open his own workshop. Any furniture that did not meet JME standards was confiscated.

It seems Joseph's table in the Museum collection was approved by the JME and must have been built between 1766 and 1797.

The only mystery that remains is how the piece got from France to Niagara and who brought it over?

Take a look at provincial ombudsman legislation – it could provide board oversight

We need an independent process for reviewing decisions of school boards.

Sandra Cowan & Georgina Keller
Friends of NDSS

Over the past few years accountability and transparency (or lack thereof) have been tossed around a lot in reference to government bodies, committees and elected boards across Ontario and locally in the Niagara Region.

When the public taxpayer is footing the bill, it is expected there will be openness and clarity in planning, and budgets. You sometimes hear the suggestion that public bodies should be run more like businesses.

It shouldn't be too much to ask them to operate with meetings open to stakeholders, communicate publicly minutes or to expect reports written with clarity, balanced budgets, wise spending decisions and shared values and visions for the future.

When you think this has not been the case, you first turn to the body or board in question and seek resolution of problems at the local level.

There are usually mechanisms in place for handling complaints. If your problem is with the school board, hospital or a long term care facility, if there is still disagreement, your next level is to approach the corresponding provincial ministry.

What if you are still not satisfied that anyone is actually hearing your concerns?

In many cases you may consider filing a complaint with the Ombudsman of Ontario. Unless you have a problem with a school board, hospital or long term care facility that is. Currently these areas, among others are not under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman. At least not in Ontario.

There is an option. Bill 131 passed first reading in Provincial Parliament in November, 2010. Take a look at the bill on the Ombudsman's website and consider what it could mean to have an independent, trusted investigation on complaints. Sometimes it is the system itself that needs to be reviewed.

And remember, on a less serious note, our new Community Centre is the place to be for a fun evening on April 9. It's Just a Party.

See you there.

Well–known local dad, grandfather battling aggressive cancer

Friends, including the team at the Oban Inn, are raising money to cover a drug not funded by OHIP.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Rich Hoadley is not only a Niagara-on-the-Lake native, he is one of the most well-liked guys around.

He is known for his strong work ethic, for his quick and warm grin and for always being ready with a joke to make others smile.

But most of all, he is known for his love and great pride in his family—his three sons, and now his grandchildren.

He was a long-time employee of the Prince of Wales when it was owned by the Wiens family, and continued on with Si Wai Lai for about seven years, until John Wiens opened Riverbend.

His three sons were raised in town, went to Parliament Oak and then to Niagara District, and his oldest, Jamie, has bought a home here to raise his kids.

His two brothers, Jason and Jeremy, live in the region, and Rich loves being able to spend time with his grandchildren.

"He's a great dad," says Jamie.

"And he's my best friend."

When the boys were growing up, he worked at two jobs—in addition to hotel maintenance, Rich liked to joke that he had been in the bedrooms of most of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He worked evenings and weekends for a few people who were drapery and window designers—chiefly Judy Rive—looking after the installation.

All three boys played hockey, two of them on travel teams. Rich went along to all the games as a trainer, which involved quite a bit of travel time and expense.

> **"He's a great dad, and he's my best friend."**
>
> *— Jamie Hoadley*

"I don't know how he managed it," says Jamie.

"I guess that's why he worked so hard."

"He is an incredible man," says Erica Lepp of the Oban Inn, which her mother, Si Wai Lai, now owns.

"He is a true asset to our community."

And at the moment, he could use some help from the community.

Those who know Hoadley well know that he is experiencing serious health issues—he is battling a very aggressive brain tumor..

Jamie explains: a common type of brain tumor, called Glioblastoma Multiforme, was first found in January 2010 and was immediately removed. After that Rich had 30 days of radiation and chemotherapy followed by about eight months of just the chemo drug, while having an MRI every three months.

"The doctors were very pleased with the treatment and things were going quite well until December, when my dad started complaining about the amount of pain he was in. Something didn't seem right. His memory, speech and motor skills were deteriorating very quickly."

His team of doctors at The Juravinski Cancer Centre moved his next MRI up to January, and discovered that the chemo was no longer affective and the tumor had grown rapidly, covering most of the left side of his brain, says Jamie.

"It seemed like the tumor had exploded."

Another small growth was also found on his brain stem, and although doctors were able to operate on the large tumor, they couldn't touch the one on his brain stem because of its location.

For that, he's being treated with injections of Avastin, a tumor-starving therapy which blocks the protein put out by the tumor, cutting off its food supply so that it feeds off itself, causing it to shrink.

Rich has already had two of these injections, and has a third booked for April 7—they are scheduled one every three weeks.

See Page 9

KING GEORGE NEEDS YOU!
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Thanks to all who came out to celebrate!

niagara-on-the-lake community centre
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Passport Draw Winners

- Jutta Bishop
- Nino Ferrantell
- Margaret Massey
- Ken Hernder
- Debbie Redekop
- Nancy Malstrom
- Tim Forbes
- Margot Richardson
- Peter Perron

- **Grand Prize** - I year Membership Track and Fitness Area
- Helen Ratkovsky

Cogeco will be airing the ceremonies
Friday, April 1st - 9pm
Saturday, April 2nd - 5pm
Sunday, April 3rd - 6pm

Come out and test drive the track & fitness area free until April 11th

Donor Wall

Unfortunately, the manufacturer of the donor wall encountered some issues with his program when installing the names on the wall and a few blocks of names were omitted which was not discovered until Saturday's unveiling. If your name is not on the wall and you have yet to advise us, forward your information to cbuist@notl.org or call: 468-4261.
The panels will be replaced within the next two weeks.

New Community Centre Phone # 905-468-4FUN (468-4386)

Treatment depends on drug not funded by OHIP to battle brain tumor

From Page 8

He had another MRI Monday to investigate the impact of the injections but won't know the results until next Friday, says Jamie—and the waiting is difficult.

The drug is approved and funded for the treatment of colon cancer, but not for the brain tumor that is attacking Rich.

Each injection costs about $5,000 to $6,000, depending on the dose, and the family has tried going to the province and several foundations, including Trillium, with no results so far.

To help fund the drug, Lai and her team at the Oban Inn, Spa and Restaurant are holding "Rich Hoadley Days" in April. Every Monday in April, beginning next week, 100 per cent of the profits from food sold at Restaurant Oban Inn from lunches and dinners will go to Rich.

He hasn't been able to work since the tumor was first detected. His speech hasn't fully returned from the second operation, and he gets frustrated easily when he can't communicate.

He is still weak, but has regained some motor skills, and can get around the house and out occasionally, says Jamie.

"He's still definitely the same person, still likes to joke, but he has trouble with words. He can't communicate as well as he'd like. And he's in constant pain. He doesn't like to show it—he's tough, and he wants to be strong for his family, so I don't think he lets on how much pain he's in, but we know there is steady pain from the pressure."

The community support has been overwhelming, says Jamie. He always knew his father was well-liked—he was the kind of person who always knew what to do and say to people to light up a room—but the response since his dad's illness has made him realize how well-respected Rich is in the community. Fundraising began in mid-February when friends began sending out emails asking for help, and the money that has been donated so far has covered the first two treatments.

"The support has been unbelievable," says Jamie.

To those who can't make it out for a lunch or dinner at the Oban but would like to help, donations can be made at the TD Bank, branch #3557, account #6042396.

Rich Hoadley, a familiar face around town, loves to spend time with his grandchildren Sawyer, Josie, Paige and Jaydon.

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22 Field St. Virgil

Great starter on a large mature lot sloping to a small creek. Nicely maintained with three bedrooms total, detached garage and hardwood floors in living area. Asking $214,000, contact Gary Zalepa Jr. Broker

www.64NiagaraSt.com

Looking for a private yard? This one backs onto greenbelt lands with orchards. A four bedroom home with 4 bathrooms, main floor family room with gas fireplace, patio to wood deck and yard. Features an attached double garage, balcony off master bedroom and nicely decorated. Contact Gary Zalepa Jr. Broker

Burwood Ave, Niagara Falls

Investors be advised. This three bedroom home lists at $159,000 and is in a highly desirable residential area in Niagara Falls. Features updated kitchen and bath with newer flooring throughout. Contact Gary Zalepa Jr. Broker.

www.Gary Zalepa Jr.com

'Welcome to the new heart of NOTL'

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Marge Clement and her great-grandson Evan Clement unveil a plaque dedicated to Harold Clement on stage at Saturday's community centre opening. The plaque will be displayed in the lobby.

From Page 1

For those interested in the breakdown of costs—the building project, under discussion for more than a decade, did not get seriously underway until infrastructure funding was promised. The $6 million facility was financed with $2 million each from the federal government and the province, matched by $2 million from the municipality.

The town's portion was intended to be funded by $550,000 from a community centre reserve fund and $450,000 to be raised by the fundraising committee.

A couple of pleasant surprises have helped pay for some enhancements and made it the impressive facility that was unveiled this weekend—MPP Kim Craitor arranged a grant of $1.5 million that was in addition to infrastructure money, and it was announced Saturday that the fundraising committee had topped its goal, with the total standing now at $650,000, news that earned a standing ovation twice in the day for Wiens and his committee.

But what visitors witnessed Saturday was far more than an impressive structure of bricks and mortar—it was the result of a community working together.

The building, said Rev. Bob Wright, asked to give the dedication, embodies the spirit of community hospitality, and "comes to life through our presence."

MPP Kim Craitor said he was sorry MP Rob Nicholson couldn't be part of the celebration because of the election call, since he had been part of the effort to see it built.

"When you're elected, you work as a team to do the right thing for the people you're elected to serve, and this community centre was the right thing," he said.

"Welcome to the new heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake, because that's what you have here—a new heart."

The name of Harold Clement was mentioned by several politicians, whom he pressured frequently over the years to make the community centre a reality.

Marge Clement, on hand with several family members for the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to her husband, said she had no doubt he was there in spirit.

Harold, who passed away in 2009, was impatient with what he perceived to be excuses for the delay of the building.

"He just wanted everyone to stop talking and get it done," said Marge, after the dedication.

And although he didn't live to see the opening Saturday, "he is here—in every bit of stone and mortar in this building, he is here."

Clement's great-grandsons Evan Clement and Jeff Clement, both visiting from Ottawa, were part of the ceremony—Evan helped unveil the plaque, while Jeff spoke about his great-grandfather.

Thank yous were the order of the day and evening—to the politicians; to John Wiens and the fundraising committee; to those who donated money for naming rights; and to the many individuals and businesses whose generosity are helping to fund enhancements for all to enjoy.

"Many of us remember the old community centre with fond memories, and we can all look ahead with anticipation as we realize the opportunities available to us in this beautiful new facility," said Lord Mayor Dave Eke.

To the community for their support, he said "thank you, for today and for the many days and years to come, for future generations and days of enjoyment shared by the young and the young at heart."

See Page 11

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Jeniah Wiens, daughter of John and Jill Wiens, welcomes visitors to the community centre opening Saturday.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

The Niagara Star Singers and the Queenston Ladies Choir performed a flash mob dance at the community centre opening, to the surprise and delight of the audience.

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PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Ivan Eaton and Gerry Rive of the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club love their club's new home, and are looking forward to the start of their season.

Rooms at the Anderson Lane Community Centre:

Some of the rooms in the new facility: The Penner Youth Centre; The Robertson Room (to be used by Niagara Nursery School); The Simpson's Pharmacy Room for seniors; The Virgil Business Association Fitness Area; the Martin Sheppard Fraser Board Room; the Bedrosian Julien Group ScotiaMcLeod Games Room; the NOTL Kinsmen Fit Stop; the NOTL Rotary Track; the Mori Nurseries Room; the Elizabeth Surtess and David Murray Patio; and the Second Cup Cafe.

Watch the opening celebration on Cogeco:

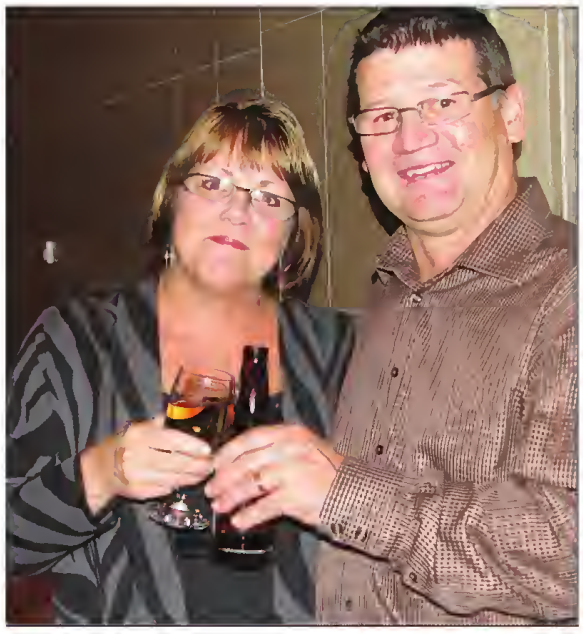
The opening celebration was recorded by Cogeco and will be broadcast Friday, April 1 at 9 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 3 at 6 p.m.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Danielle Smith, a member of the Niagara Nursery School, proudly points out her cubbie at the community centre to her brother Evan. The nursery school will open in September at its new location.

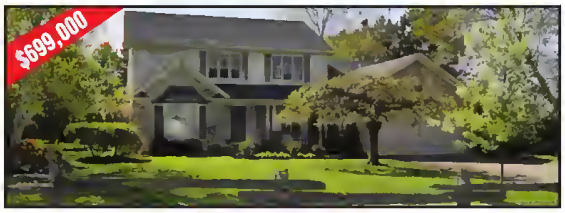
PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Annika Johnson and Hannah Schaf serve up duck tarts for Annika's father Perry Johnson of the Stone Road Grill, to Marilyn and Richard Fediuk. The tarts were just some of the many delicacies offered by local restaurants at the evening celebration.



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Judy and Ken Rive relax at Saturday's evening event and celebrate the successful completion of the building, for which Ken served as project manager.



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Daily passes, monthy and annual memberships available

The new community centre fitness area is open, free until April 9 and ready for memberships.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

With the official opening festivities at the new community centre out of the way, it's time to get down to the business of fitness—free until April 9.

Residents have been signing up for track and fitness memberships, some monthly, but most taking advantage of the annual rates, says Parks and Recreation Department administrative assistant Luanne Kulchar.

And others are just having a look around the facility at this point, and they are welcome to do so, she says.

The town is offering residents the opportunity to try out the fitness equipment and the track at no cost until Saturday, April 9.

At the moment, the fitness area is open Monday to Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Included upstairs in the fitness area is a six-foot wide walking and jogging track that is 375 feet—14 laps equals a mile, and nine laps equal a kilometre.

Cardio equipment includes two treadmills, ellipticals and spin bikes, an upright bike, two recumbent bikes and a concept rower.

For strength training, there is a functional trainer, a multipress machine, lat machine, ab and back machine, leg extension and leg curl, leg press, bicep and tricep machine.

There are also dumbbells, kettleballs and benches, and for balance and core training a vibration platform and exercise balls.

See Page 13

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Wally and Alice Bogusat try out the new equipment at the Anderson Lane community centre.

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Did you know that global turmoil might actually help Canada's real estate market? Expert Don Campbell, president of the Real Estate Investment Network, says Canada has what the world needs - Food, Fuel, Fertilizer & Forestry. There is no other stable country in the world that can provide all of these as reliably, and demand will increase. Increased production of the 4 Fs leads to GDP growth, which stimulates higher levels of employment and boosts population. A growing population creates housing demand and real estate market growth. Mr. Campbell adds, "Obviously we are not immune to what goes on in the world... we do need to be realistic about that. However, this is Canada's time to shine."

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Watch the Wildlife

24 Shakespeare Ave $279,000

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14940 Niagara Parkway $598,000

This spacious 3-bedroom home is set on over ¾ acre with gardens, pool and garage. Sunroom with gas fireplace, refinished floors, and updated kitchen. Main floor den with 2-piece en suite.

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PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Lauren Skeoch tries out the treadmill at the community centre. While kids were able to test the equipment at Saturday's opening, memberships will be limited to those 13 years and older.

Schedule for classes, programs remains 'a work in progress'

From Page 12

Also upstairs are lockers (take your own lock and remove it when you're done), change rooms and showers.

Staff at the centre will provide help if needed, says Kulchar, but the machines all have instructions for those who are unfamiliar with how to use them. Information sessions will be scheduled as more people sign up.

For now, explains parks and recreation director Clive Buist, schedules are flexible and a work in process as staff wait to see how many people sign up and what kind of instruction they are looking for.

A calendar is in the works to show what programs will be offered and when, and will be available at the community centre and online, says Buist.

That holds true for the seniors room as well as the fitness area, and a youth program is in the early stages of development.

Kevin Turcotte, program manager, is looking for teens who want to be part of a youth committee to help plan programs.

When the fitness fees kick in April 9, there are daily, monthly and yearly rates available.

Adult residents can pay $3 for a day pass, $15 a month, $150 a year or $200 a couple for the year.

Fees for non-residents are slightly higher.

The fitness area is monitored but not supervised, so it is only open to those 13 years and older.

The Second Cup coffee shop that connects the NOTL Public Library and the community centre is also open for business, Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information the desk of the community centre can be reached at 905-468-4fun (4386).

Niagara-on-the-Lake Church Directory

Grace United Church
Victoria at Queen St. • Niagara-on-the-Lake
Minister: Rev. David Pritchard
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Children's Program
A Friendly Welcome Awaits You
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Wheelchair Access

Niagara Christian Assembly
(P.A.O.C.)
1875 Hwy 55 • 905-468-8971
NIAGARA DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL
Sunday, April 3rd, 10:30 a.m.
April Theme: 'Making God Look Good'
Pastor Dave Tunikaitis Ministering
www.ncachurch.net: check here for events and podcasts.

BETHANY MENNONITE CHURCH
East/West Line & 4 Mile Creek Road
9:30 am Traditional Service
10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Celebration Service
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Associate Pastor - Marty Misener
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www.vaxxine.com/bethany/

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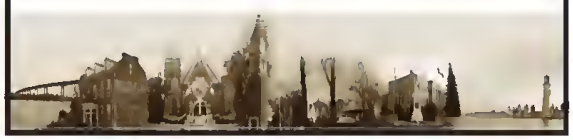

Village
St. Davids Public School
Meeting at 1344 York Road, St. Davids
289-296-9036
Sunday, April 3
10:00am: Coffee Time • 10:30am: Worship Service
(Childcare Provided)
Message: Freedom From... Spiritual Blindness
Greg Alderton, Pastor www.villagebiblechurch.ca

Cornerstone Community Church
www.ccchurch.ca
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
905-468-7155
Sunday, April 3rd
9:30am: 1st Service *(nursery care provided entire service)*
• 10:30am: Coffee Time
• 11:00am: 2nd Service
(nursery care provided mid-way through service)
Message by: Doug Hiebert, Pastor

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ In Our Community"
10:00 am German Service
Message by Hans J. Wiens
11:00 am Worship Service
Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks
"Seven Habits of Highly Effective Christians Pt. 2"
(Hebrews 13:1-18)
Pastors:
Rudy & Sharon Dirks,
Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

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Orchard Park Bible Church
434 Hunter Rd. 905-468-5731
www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
Sunday, April 3rd
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am
10:45 am
Communion Service
"In Remembrance of Me"
Nursery and Kidzone for ages 3 to SK during the service

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in the village of St. Davids
905-262-5242
Minister:
Rev. Paul James
Sunday Services at 10:30 am
Sunday School and Nursery during the Worship Service

LIFE ABUNDANT FELLOWSHIP
"To know Christ & to make Him known"
Sunday, April 3rd
10:30am Worship
Guest Minister:
Wayne Dalgleish
Pastor Rick Mills
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lifeabundantfellowship@gmail.com

St. Saviour's Anglican Church
General Brock Memorial
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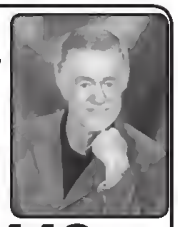

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Cause of house fire on Mississauga Street unknown

Nobody was hurt in the Saturday evening blaze that required 43 volunteer firefighters to put it out.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department was no closer to finding a cause for a house fire midweek than it was Saturday when firefighters were called to put out the blaze.

The call of a structure fire at 257 Mississauga Street came around 10 p.m. Saturday. The building was an older two-storey, wood frame house occupied by a couple who had just returned home and heard a noise in the wall, says Fire Chief Ken Eden.

> **"The homeowners have found temporary accommodation."**
>
> *— Fire Chief Ken Eden*

Looking for the source of the noise, they discovered the wall was hot and they began to smell smoke. They immediately left the house and called for assistance.

Five trucks were initially dispatched from Niagara-on-the-Lake and Virgil, arriving on the scene about five minutes later. There was heavy smoke coming from the entire roof of the building and it was confirmed that everyone, including two dogs, were uninjured and outside the house, said Fire Chief Eden.

A second alarm was requested for additional manpower. During the course of the fire there were 43 firefighters from three stations, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Virgil and Queenston, at the scene as well as the Niagara Regional Police and Niagara EMS who provided support services to the fire department.

Firefighters were able to locate the seat of the fire and contain it to the ground floor room, the bedroom and the attic area immediately above it.

There was considerable smoke and some water damage throughout the house and hydro service was cut off during firefighting operations, which ended about 12:40 a.m. with no firefighter injuries, said the NOTL fire chief.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire and Emergency Services with no estimate of the amount of damage available.

There were no working smoke detectors in the house at the time of the fire.

The homeowners were insured and have found temporary accommodation, said the chief.

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Only five short years later, in 1967, the Shaw Festival's production of Major Barbara traveled to Expo 67 to join in the celebrations of this nation's 100th birthday.

In 1973, the newly built Festival Theatre opened. Guests included Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and India's Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. That same year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh attended the Shaw Festival.

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Special 50th Season Events and Initiatives:

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Special exhibits at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Museum, Pearson International Airport (Toronto) and Guelph University.

SHAW FESTIVAL – The First Fifty Years – a commemorative book celebrating 50 years of theatre at The Shaw. Written by Shaw scholar L.W. Conolly and designed by Scott McKowen. $49.95 (hardcover).

SHAW CELEBRATION PACKAGE – book all four SHAW productions for only $219 (Blue seating, tax not included) and save up to 25%. See HEARTBREAK HOUSE, ON THE ROCKS, CANDIDA and MY FAIR LADY – inspired by Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* – on any weekend from July 9 to August 28. Package also includes a Shaw Festival gift.

SPECIAL THEATRE PACKAGES inspired by our 2011 Season such as *Bloomin' Flowers* which includes an ornamental flower-making workshop, a picnic and a performance of My Fair Lady on August 9 and 23.

LOCAL INITIATIVES INCLUDE:
- Celebratory banners along Queen Street
- A flower bed at Queen & Mississaugua and at Niagara Parks' Queenston Heights

IN TORONTO, the CN Tower will be illuminated in the colour gold on our Opening night of the 2011 Season in honor of the 50th Season.

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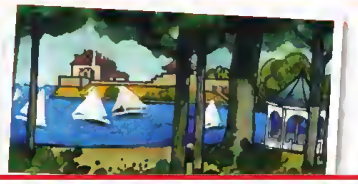
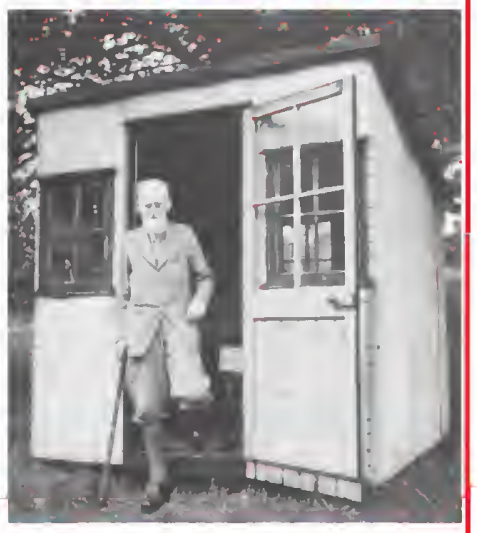


Did you know George Bernard Shaw created his famous works of literary art from an office in a simple garden hut? The hut sat on a rotating platform so Shaw could move the shed around to get the best light at different times of the day. He wrote many of his most celebrated works, including Pygmalion, in the revolving hut, which was built in the 1920s.
Talk about creative genius!



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MAY 10 TO OCTOBER 7

THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON
by J. M. Barrie
JUNE 22 TO OCTOBER 29

ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE

CANDIDA
by Bernard Shaw
APRIL 7 TO OCTOBER 30

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF
by Tennessee Williams **MAY 3 TO OCTOBER 23**

THE PRESIDENT
by Ferenc Molnár, adapted by Morwyn Brebner
JUNE 3 TO OCTOBER 9

COURT HOUSE THEATRE

DRAMA AT INISH – A COMEDY
by Lennox Robinson **MAY 6 TO OCTOBER 1**

ON THE ROCKS
by Bernard Shaw, in a new version
by Michael Healey **JUNE 14 TO OCTOBER 8**

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book, music and lyrics
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JULY 19 TO SEPTEMBER 23

STUDIO THEATRE

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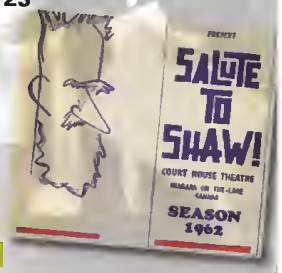

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Emily Abt and Ella Sendzik were Home Show volunteers at NDSS recently, helping to raise money for Crossroads School.

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Virgil students have fun raising money to send to Japan

Week of fundraisers held at school.

Michael Eden
and Marcus Minhorst
Virgil School

Crossroads Public School is currently in development, to open in 160 days, and hoping for necessary funds to build playground equipment, a home show was held recently with an amazing turn-out of about 2000 guests.

This spectacular event featured more than 75 vendors, raising more than $10,000.

Friday, March 11 was devoted to fun in the sun. A school swimming trip to Brock University was organized and the students were encouraged to sport beachwear. What a great way of beginning the March Break.

With Japan in dire need of help after a devastating turn of events, Virgil School's very own Me to We club has organized a week of Japan relief fundraisers.

On Monday, a popcorn sale was held to kick-off the week. Those who brought a dollar on Tuesday were granted the permission to wear hats and chew gum. For the duration of Wednesday, a competition was held: each student, with 25cents, was entitled to estimate the number of jellybeans in a jar; the one with the closest estimate, without going over, received the jar of jellybeans.

A slit-throat match of volleyball will take place today, between the staff and students. To conclude the week, the student-body will be invited to the gymnasium to view a film. The name of the movie has been held back - as a surprise to us.

A group of students from Virgil and Colonel John Butler Public Schools have joined into a student parliament. These kids will eventually be collaborating together, forming decisions that will concern the entire school. Boys and girls representing us are Caed Jones, Kai Bartel, Ben McDonald Daniel Klassen , Justin Wormald, Kassie Dick and Olivia Hamlyn from Col. John Butler and Ethan Dau, Austin Belanger, Hailey Rumsey, Maddie Rogers, Matthew Puglisi and Amin Sono from Virgil.

Members of the Chess Club have devoted weeks of preparation to triumph at the regional DSBN chess tournament April 6 at the CAW Hall, where visitors are welcome.

The Virgil School choir, directed by Ms. Willms, will participate in the DSBN Choral Music Festival on April 6 and 8. We wish them luck tas they have been practicing their hearts out.

On a final note, thank you to the School Council, for sponsoring the Niagara Falls Art Gallery, as several classes have had the privilege of working with them.

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In the Classroom

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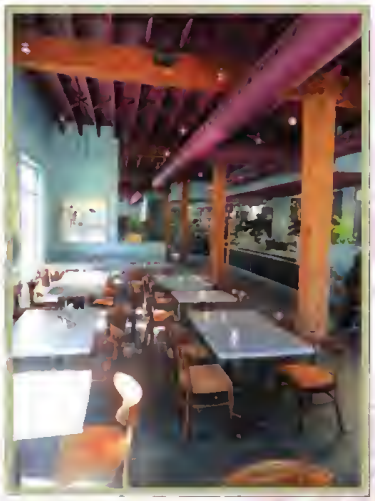
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Learn English country dancing to prepare for Whispers of War

Grand Ball will be held at Addison Hall.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Are you ready for the Grand Ball, a launch to some of the 1812 bicentennial celebrations over the coming years?

Dispatches 2012, a project of Niagara Falls artists, has been providing costume workshops to prepare for bicentennial celebrations.

In the coming weeks, they are offering free dance lessons to those who wish to attend the ball, so they will be primed when they take to the dance floor.

In Canada and in Britain in the 19th century, people were dance-crazy, often dancing all night—decades later visitors and travellers were still talking about it, says country dance instructor and dance historian Karen Millyard.

Newspapers often published accounts of balls and dancing was taken seriously—you had to be trained in dancing if you had any social pretensions at all, says Millyard.

English country dancing resembles an elegant style of square dancing, she says—steps are prompted, performed in groups, with dancers weaving patterns around each other. Picture the dancing in Jane Austen film adaptations, she says.

"It's also an equal opportunity style of dance—there is no lead or follower."

While costumes are not mandatory, women tend to feel more comfortable and are more likely to take on the persona of a 19th century dancer when wearing long dresses—and shoes with heels are definitely not a good idea, she says.

The Dispatches 2012 Project is offering a series of four two-hour dance lessons on April 7, 14, 28 and May 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at a cost of $50.

But anyone purchasing tickets to the ball will receive the dance lessons free, says Dean Tedesco of Dispatches 1812.

These classes will be taught,with live music, at St.Patrick's Church in Niagara Falls by Millyard, who is also a choreographer. The dances are not hard to learn, she promises. They do not require a specific partner or any previous experience—attend alone or as a couple and immerse yourself in the entertainment of the early 19th century. And it's great exercise, she adds.

The Whispers of War Grand Ball will be held at Addison Hall at St Mark's Church. The dance will be of the early 19th century—English country dancing.

The ball venue will be "sumptuously decorated" and a historically authentic buffet lunch will be provided, he says—the Whispers of War ball menu will feature meat cake, Cheshire Pork Pie and an assortment of desserts, including Savoy cake with cream.

Maja Bannerman and Dean Tedesco are ready to dance at the Grand Ball.

Tickets for the ball are $55 for dancers or $45 for posers (those who wish to be part of the spectators' gallery only).

For information or reservations for the dance lessons or the ball, contact E. communityartistsniagara@gmail.com, call Tedesco at 289-969-4229 or visit www.dispatches 2012.ca

The "Dispatches 2012" Project by Community Artists Niagara in Niagara Falls, was formed to give Niagara residents an opportunity participate and experience the arts, culture and heritage skills related to the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Their interest is helping people to understand civilian life of the era, giving residents a taste of what life was like in 1812, rather than the military side of events, says Tedesco.

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Fundraiser features return of popular Torchmen quartet

Concert will raise money for Mennonite relief.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

With more than 40 years of experience spreading the word through southern gospel music, the Torchmen will make their second appearance at the Niagara United Mennonite Church this spring.

The Torchmen, with the only original member, Mike Moran, based in St. Catharines, appear at churches and community events to help nurture an environment of Christian music as entertainment.

Now in their 42nd year of making music, with more than 20 CDs behind them, they welcome the opportunity to take their music to church fundraisers, such as the April 9 concert at the Niagara UM, says former Torchmen singer Orlin Epp who toured with the band for about 18 years, before retiring 15 years ago.

The concert, with a "dessert extravaganza," will be a benefit to raise money for the Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Relief Sale.

The concert four years ago brought in an appreciative crowd and was a successful fundraiser—the musicians have fun, and make sure their audience does as well— thus the reason for again hosting the popular award-winning group, which has been nominated for a Grammy and has performed twice at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

The concert is at 7 p.m. April 9 at the church on Niagara Stone Road. Tickets are $20 and are available by calling 905-468-9152, or at the church.

Torchmen Dave Randall, Josh Friend, Mike Moran (the original member from St. Catharines) and Sandy MacGregor will perform at the Niagara United Mennonite Church in Virgil April 9. Tickets are available at the church.

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The Niagara Health System is seeking volunteers to serve on the Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie, and Port Colborne Community Standing Committees of the Board of Trustees

Applications are invited from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie and Port Colborne residents for potential candidates to serve on the respective Community Standing Committees of the Board of Trustees of the Niagara Health System.

The Standing Committees ensure that the perspectives, particular service requirements, unique needs, other issues and local community interests have an effective voice at the Board level and that these and other issues are considered in governance decisions of the Corporation.

Candidates interested in applying are requested to submit a resume and a letter stating the reason why they wish to serve.

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The deadline for applications is Thursday April 21, 2011.

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MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY DECLARES A 15% REFUND ON 2010 PREMIUMS PAID

President Brian Heaslip (left) receives refund cheque from Vice-President Phillip Lambert (right) at Bertie and Clinton's head office.

Bertie and Clinton is a local Mutual Insurance Company that specializes in providing farm insurance to its owning members. By insuring with the company, you can also become a part owner and have a voice in how the company is run. Recently, the company declared a refund from surplus of 15% on property, liability and automobile premiums paid in 2010. Approximately $1,515,000.00 was refunded to the policyholders provided they had been insured for at least one year and their policy was in force at December 31, 2010. Bertie and Clinton has declared a refund from surplus in sixteen of the last twenty years and has provided insurance for Niagara Peninsula residents since 1880.

The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At the annual meeting held March 22, 2011 David Gill of Welland, Phillip Lambert of Niagara-on-the-Lake and David Wiley of St. Catharines were elected for three year terms. Brian Heaslip of Wellandport will serve the company as President for 2011-2012 and Phillip Lambert was elected as Vice-President. Keith Hallborg of Welland is the Secretary-Manager.

Bertie and Clinton Mutual has agents and brokers throughout the Niagara Peninsula. If you own a farm in the Niagara Peninsula or for any other general insurance needs please contact us at 1789 Merrittville Hwy., R.R.#2 Welland. 905-892-0606 or 1-800-263-0494. Fax 905-892-0365

Local teens offer great entertainment

Niagara Star Singers are preparing to perform at a national competition in Toronto.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Those who attended Saturday's opening of the community centre will have witnessed the talent and dedication of a group of local teens who sing and dance together.

They worked hard on their performances for the opening—especially the flash mob dance, which is difficult to co-ordinate and took most people by surprise, says Jill Barber, one of the event organizers.

She credits the girls, artistic director Lisa Cosens Brillon and the Queenston Ladies Choir for doing a great job with the entertainment for the opening.

"It was a lot of work, but they put everything into it, and I think it worked out really well."

The 11 girls, who sing together under the direction of Brillon, just returned from a successful performance and workshop trip to Disney World, and have exciting news for their next recital: they have been invited to perform a 25-minute segment at the Show Choir Canada National Competition in Toronto Friday, at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Twelve show choirs, mostly from high school glee clubs across Canada, will be competing during the day. The Niagara Star Singers will be performing at the end of the preliminary rounds on Friday evening.

The Niagara Star Singers is a show choir made up of teenage girls who rehearse weekly as well as taking private singing, dance and drama lessons. They specialize in performing selections in song and dance from musical theatre, movies and popular songs.

The choir was founded in October 2008 by Brillon to showcase the talent of young singers, dancers, and actors in the Niagara region.

They perform at a professional level, providing entertainment locally and nationally.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

The Niagara Star Singers, after entertaining at the new community centre, are preparing to perform in Toronto.

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Fundraising never ends for Red Roof special needs programs

Young adult program self-supporting, but respite care is subsidized.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Garrett Bjorgan is 17 now, still has that beautiful smile that wins the hearts of all who meet him and the good nature that delights those who know him, and is loved by the staff and students at Holy Cross, where he goes to school.

But born with cerebral palsy, which left him wheelchair-bound and requiring constant care, Garrett will be cut loose from the school system when he's 21, and his parents are beginning to look ahead to what awaits him.

Steffanie and Moe Bjorgan have been advocating for Garrett and other special needs kids since he was born, when they discovered the gaps that exist in meeting the needs of families such as theirs. They haven't stopped yet. They can't.

There are more than 3,500 families in the Niagara Region with special needs. Some of them receive funding for some aspects of care, but there are others, such as parents of young adults, who are without help.

Some of those with the greatest needs, who require one-on-one care 24/7, such as Garrett, will get no help once they reach 21, says Steffanie.

"I've seen what happens to those families. I've seen our future. When Garrett is done school, he has nowhere to go. It's like these kids are missing citizens. People don't know they exist."

She and Moe have full-time jobs, but somebody will have to look after Garrett. Moe talks about switching to regular night shifts so one of them is always home, but that's not ideal for them—and it's not good for Garrett either, who needs the stimulation of social situations and enjoys being with other young people.

And not all parents have that choice. Steffanie knows one mom who has had to quit her job to stay home to care for her young adult with high needs. The only other option is a hospital or long-term care facility that caters to seniors, and those are not appropriate settings for young adults—they lead to isolation and depression.

"It really kills me to see that ball dropped for the kids who need the most help," says Steffanie.

So, as she has for 17 years, Steffanie has picked up that ball and tried to run with it, beginning a new program at Red Roof Retreat for young adults, offering social and emotional support, physical and personal care, recreation and leisure activities on-site and within the community.

Like respite weekend care and the summer programs offered by Red Roof, the adult day program is provided at the Ranch on Concession 6 in Virgil, Red Roof's 11-acre hobby farm with farm animals, accessible walking trails, creek, wetlands and horse pastures.

Those young adults who take part in the program might be enrolled in other community programs, or they might not have any other options, and are looking for an opportunity to be out in the community in a safe and supported way, says Bjorgan.

Some have funding provided through various provincial programs, and some have no help with funding whatsoever. It costs $130 a day, so parents can only take advantage of it two or three days a week at most, but it gives them some respite and their special needs adult a chance to socialize.

Red Roof volunteers and staff are constantly funding to offset operational costs and subsidize the respite weekend program, which serves about 30 Niagara families and has a waiting list of another 30, but this adult day camp is a break-even service that must pay for itself, Bjorgan says.

The 9th Annual Pasta Dinner is coming up Sunday, April 17 at John Michaels Banquet Hall in Thorold. It promises to be another great event in support of the weekend respite program, with tickets at $20 or $10 for children six to 12 years of age.

For more information or tickets visit www.redroofretreat.com or call 905-684-0235.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Ryan Crawford of Niagara's Finest Inns gives Steffanie Bjorgan of Red Roof Retreat a cheque for more than $6,500, raised during the third annual 40 Winks held to benefit the local facility that provides quality recreational, educational and respite services for special needs children and young adults.

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www.notlhockey.com
Saturday April 2nd, 2011
8:30 am – 6:30 pm
Sunday April 3rd, 2011
1:00 – 4:00 pm
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Sports

Editor **Penny Coles**
905–468–3283 ext. 103 editor@niagaraadvance.com

NOTL girls atom team wins season championship with perfect record

It was the perfect end to the perfect season—the Niagara-on-the-Lake atom girls of the Niagara Falls Girls Hockey Association, sponsored by Tim Hortons, won their season championship.

After ending their season in first place—and with no losses—the girls played two games in St. Catharines for the championship Sunday, winning the first 1-0 and their final contest 4-0 against a St. Catharines team.

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Thanks to coaches Martin Langbroek, James Ward and Steve Bagshaw, the NOTL atom girls won their season championship Sunday in St. Catharines. Celebrating the win are (top, left) Chloe Diemer, Brooke Juras, Anna Smythe, Morgan Buis, Valerie Langbroek and Camryn Bagshaw, (middle) Eve Ward, Samantha Holenski, Madison Ruzylo, Madison Berg, Lauren Cooke, Hannah Telford, Madelyn Maheu and Courtney Ostromecki with goalies Hailey Rumsey and Kaitlyn Brady.

2011 Season
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NOTL Minor Softball

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First–year Simpson's Rangers get through to provincial semi–finals

Fourth place finish ends a good first season for atom Simpson's Rangers.

In the first season for the Simpson's Rangers atom girls basketball first season, the girls' non-stop effort on the court pushed them to fourth place at the provincial championships held in London this past weekend.

The Rangers faced Strathroy Spirit in their first game and came out on top 35 - 10. High scorer was Molly Bowron with 11 points, Beth deBoer with six, Katie Caughill and Rachel Frena with for each and Teniya Cowan, Lois deGroot, Lucy Heuving and Chloe Scudamore contributing two each.

Excellent defensive play by Carrie Robinson helped in the win.

The second game saw the Rangers up against the Windsor Valiants at a loss of 34 - 16. High scorer Beth deBoer came through with seven points followed by Molly Bowron with five and two each for Morgan Buis and Mackenzie Brown, with strong defensive play by Rachel Frena and Beth deBoer.

Sunday's semi-final game for the Ranger against the North Toronto Huskies saw the Rangers outplay the Huskies 11 - 4 in the second half, but the girls had to settle for an overall loss to the Huskies of 31 - 20.

High scorer was Chloe Scudamore with seven points, Rachel Frena with six points, three for Beth deBoer and two each for Molly Bowron and Emily Braun, with strong defensive play by Morgan Buis and Chloe Scudamore.

For the bronze medal game the Rangers faced a tough Chatham Wildcats team and lost 40 - 24.

High scorer was Rachel Frena with eight points, Beth deBoer with six points, and two each for Katie Caughill, Carrie Robinson, Teniya Cowan, Emily Braun and Mackenzie Brown. Outstanding hustle and defence by Mackenzie Brown.

Dave and Michelle Brown, parents of player Mackenzie Brown, were pleased with the accomplishments of the team in its first season.

"You took a bunch of girls, created an organization and made a team," said Dave Brown.

"Everyone grew as players but more importantly as young ladies. These girls are much more confident and have increased self esteem, not to mention the active lifestyle habits they are learning. You have even taught them the importance of nutrition before and after games and you have taught the building blocks essential for success in life: hard work and team work," said Brown, congratualing coaches Jennifer and Bruce Caughill, for their time and effort.

Mackenzie Brown, an atom player, and Logan in the novice division are not only better basketball players but better people for having participated in the Rangers program, said Dave.

The Rangers will be running a spring league in May and June for girls Grade 5 and under and will be up and running again in September with house and rep teams.

Molly Bowron (back, left), Lois deGroot, Mackenize Brown and Teniya Cowan, with Carrie Robinson, Rachel Frena, Emily Braun, Beth deBoer, Chloe Scudamore, Lucy Heuving and Katie Caughill, aided the Rangers to their fourth-place finish for their first season. Missing from photo is Morgan Buis.

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Family & Parent Expo
9am-2pm
Sat. April 9th
Club Heidelberg
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St. Catharines

Coming Events A940

FISH FRY
Thursdays 4:30-7:30pm
Royal Canadian Legion Br #124
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All Welcome!

CFUW, 36th Annual House Tour Sun, May 1st 12-5pm www.ctuwstcatharines.org 905-934-5002 cfuw.stcatharinas@ma.com.
12168095

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Coming Events A940

FINAL Junior Tennis REGISTRATION
Saturday, April 2 • 9am - 1pm • MCU ARENA
905-262-5355 ♦ charlene.juras@sympatico.ca

Saturday, April 9, 2011 ✦ 7:00 pm
Niagara United Mennonite Church
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in concert, followed by a
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Proceeds for Mennonite Central Committee
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General Employment A800

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Health & Medical A854

NOTL Family Health Team
Primary Care Chronic Disease Educator

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Family Health Team is currently seeking applications for a **Chronic Disease Educator;**
3 days / week) to join our primary healthcare team.

Requirements include:

- A Baccalaureate Nursing Degree
- Advanced knowledge of chronic disease management and prevention
- Advanced knowledge of health promotion
- Previous experience in program development in healthcare
- Preferred minimum 3-5 years previous experience in a primary healthcare setting
- Excellent computer skills in either PC or MAC based programs
- Ability to work independently as well as ability to work within a team environment
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent inter-personal skills

Interested applicants may forward their resume no later than **Wednesday April 13, 2011 to:**

Maria Bau-Coote
Executive Director
NOTL Family Health Team

P.O. Box 777, 1882 Niagara Stone Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0
FAX #: 905-468-7960
maria@notlfht.com

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Births

The Athertons and Polgrabias are overjoyed to welcome Jayden to our families. A whole new adventure for Mommy and Daddy, Mark and Caroline Polgrabia. Aunt Laura, Nathan, Bronwyn, Kassandra, Uncle Tim, Aunt Michelle, Ben, Sullivan, Beth, Aunt Leigh, Uncle David, Aunt Julie, Grandma Millie, Grandpa (JaJa) Bruno and Grandma Atherton are so happy you have become part of our family. XOXOXO

Welcome Little One
12242302

1st Wedding Anniversary

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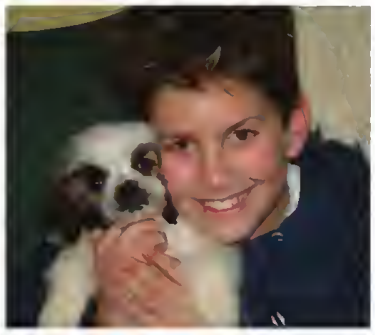
Birthday greetings



HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY

ALEXANDER

Love, Mom, Dad,
Aaron, Kaley and Lincoln
12242164

Birthday greetings

Please join the family of

HELEN DAWSON

to celebrate her **90th Birthday!**

Saturday, April 9, 2011 ♥ 1 - 4 pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Kirk Hall, 323 Simcoe St. NOTL

If you have a special picture with Helen, please bring it with you that day to create a memorable photo album for Helen.

Your Presence is what is most appreciated as Helen's gift!
12245011

Deaths

BALL, Marian Jean (PEGGY) – With heavy hearts her family sadly announces that following a valiant fight for a healthy life their mom, grandmother, aunt, friend and everyone's Granny passed away Friday March 25, 2011 at St. Catharines General Hospital in her 83rd year. Peggy was predeceased by her husband Ted Ball (March 1, 1988), parents Frank and Jessie Pitt and all of her brothers and sisters. She will be missed by her children Betsy and Dan Fox, Terry, Mary and Peaches (Beth) Ball, grandsons Edward and Andrew Ball and Edward Fox (fiancée Emily Brant). Visitation was held at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Monday March 28th. A service to celebrate Peggy's life was held Tuesday March 29th at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Interment followed in the church cemetery. In Granny's memory, donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church would be appreciated by her family. Online guest register:
www.morganfuneral.com

A Memorial Donation has been made to
Morgan Funeral Homes Community Fund
12241715

Newsettes

Baha'i

The wisdom of prayer is this: That it causeth a connection between the servant and the True One, because in that state man with all heart and soul turneth his face towards His Highness the Almighty, seeking His association and desiring His love and compassion...Besides all this, prayer and fasting is the cause of awakening and mindfulness and conducive to protection and preservation from tests.
Abdu'l-Baha

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Young NOTL skaters come home with medals

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club sent 21 young skaters to the Futures - East Invitational Skating Competition held recently in Six Nations to compete against more than 400 skaters, and had 12 girls return with medals.

These are the skaters' results: Cierra Perron, STARSkate Pre-Preliminary, first: Jeniah Wiens, Pre-Preliminary A Limited Group 9 - first; Anya Heaven, Pre-Preliminary A Limited Group 10 - second; Mackenzie Graba, Pre-Preliminary A Limited Group 6 - third; Alyssa Hunter, Pre-Preliminary B Limited Group 3 - third; Rachael Hunter, CanSkate Group 10 - third; Angelina Maniatis, Pre-Preliminary A Limited Group 1 - third; Kyra Marotta, Pre-Preliminary A Limited Group 2 - third; Julianna Mihelic, CanSkate Group 14 - third; Kaitlyn Ostromecki, CanSkate Group 12 - third; Avery Royer, CanSkate Group 5 - third; Felicia Scaringi, STARSkate Preliminary - third; Antonia Martin - CanSkate Group 15 - fourth; Madison MacLean - Pre-Preliminary A Limited Group 3 - fifth; Taylor McLachlan - STARSkate Pre-Preliminary - fifth; Kaityn Wiens - CanSkate Group 7 - fifth; Abby Johnstone, Pre-Preliminary B Limited Group 4 - sixth; Annelise Perron - STARSkate Preliminary - sixth; Lexie Madsen - STARSkate Preliminary - seventh; Alexa Ostrowski - Preliminary B Group 4 - seventh; Claudia Selimi - CanSkate Group 15 - eighth.

NOTL Skating Club sent 21 skaters to the Futures - East Invitational Skating Competition held recently at Six Nations, and had 12 return with medals.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Young skaters practise for Just Foolin' Around, the NOTL Skating Club showcase performance that will be put on tomorrow night, Friday April 1, in the Meridian Credit Union Arena beginning at 7 p.m. Guest skaters are Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch, Senior Pair Champions of Canada. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children 10 and under. Tickets are available by calling the club at 905-468-7465, or from any NOTL skating club board member.

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600 Simcoe Street ~$399,000

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Anna da Silva* & Jaime da Silva*

5 Mulberry Lane ~ $419,500

Luxurious Finishes, Pristine Condition, Exquisite Taste! Attention to detail is everywhere! Built in 2005, this immaculate property features 3 bdrms, 4 baths, double garage, finished basement, landscaped, fenced courtyard, double concrete drive, elegant hardwood flooring, granite counter tops, main floor sunroom/office & much more!

Jennifer Hayes and Nina Mandeville***

698 Rye Street ~ $224,900

This 1.5 storey cottage home presents the informed buyer with options for renovation or redevelopment, & offers the potential to be a weekend/holiday or full-time residence. The roof, windows, electrical, furnace, insulation, & bath have been updated over the last 8 yrs. **Visit: www.698RyeStreet.Info**

Doug Rempel*

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701 Geneva St #2202 ~ St. Catharines

Luxurious Beachview suite offers 2 bdrms, 2 baths plus solarium and unobstructed panoramic views from all principal rooms. Built-in appliances, extra storage in the laundry room, generous closet and cabinetry space throughout plus two parking spaces and storage locker. Condo fee includes all utilities. **$339,900**

Doug Rempel*

1394 Concession 6 Road
$369,000

With one foot in the country, one in town, set on a 2/3 acre lot, backing on to vineyards, and framed by some of Niagara's spectacular sunsets, this sprawling 4 bedroom, 2 bath family friendly home may be the perfect fit. With two additions including a 2 bedroom loft and a bedroom and a spacious bed-sit with an outside entrance. While away the hours on the verandah, enjoy the BBQ patio, play in the 16 x 32 pool.

Visit: www.1394Concession6.Info

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56 Pinot Trail
$419,900

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Visit: www.56PinotTrail.Info

Doug Rempel*

104 Cole Crescent ~ $339,900

NEEDS REVITALIZATION BUT...with 6 bdrms, 3.5 baths, spacious LR & DR, eat-in kitchen, relaxing FR, this home is perfect for the large or extended family and offers the opportunity to orchestrate its 2nd debut. Located in the golf community of Niagara-on-the-Green. **Visit: www.104ColeCrescent.Info**

Doug Rempel*

353 Niagara Blvd.
$3,335,000

WATERFRONT HOME IN NIAGARA ON THE LAKE! Nestled amongst beautiful perennial gardens, surrounded by flagstone walks & patios, with panoramic lakefront views & Toronto skyline beyond, this estate home is worthy of consideration. Inside exposed milled beams vault over 22 ft. Beyond is the 4-season solarium with walkout to the manicured gardens & steps to water's edge. Enjoy the compact european style kitchen with built-in Miele appliances.

Visit: www.353NiagaraBlvd.Info

Doug Rempel*

TOPS FOR FEBRUARY

Sally McGarr, Broker of Record and Your Home Team are pleased to recognize **Nina Mandeville** as **February's Top Producer.** Nina's accomplishment recognizes her commitment to providing the ultimate informed and personalized client focused service.

Nina Mandeville*